

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/690,366

Examiner

Luis Roman

Applicant(s)

BLUMENAUER ET AL.

Art Unit

2836

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 06/14/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 8,9,11-14,16,17,23-28,30-36,38-41 and 43-58.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Applicant's Request for Continued Examination (RCE) filed on 06/14/06 has been entered. Accordingly claims 11, 12, 25, 26, 27, 28, 31, 32, 35, 36, 38, 39 & 40 have been kept original, claims 8, 23, 24, 33, 41, 43 & 55 have been amended, claims 9, 13, 14, 30, 34, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 56, 57, 58, 16 & 17 were previously presented and no claim has been cancelled. No new claim was added. It also included remarks/arguments.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

Regarding claims 8, 24, 33 & 43 the closest reference is "Ground Fault Detection and Protection Circuit" Bereskin US Patent 4159499 issued June 26 1979.

This patent discloses a ground fault protection comprising: a core thru which load wires pass, wherein said magnetic core is capable of detecting a magnetic field from at least one fault current flowing through said load wires; a device including a winding that provides a voltage output magnetically coupled to said core, which is directly proportional to a line fault; a sensing circuit capable of detecting line and neutral faults between the wire lines and ground; and a wiring board circuit breaker electrically connected to an output of said sensing circuit; wherein that said circuit breaker trips when a preset threshold is exceeded in the three phase electrical circuit.

The reference does not disclose wherein at the most three load wires of a three phase electrical circuit are fed directly through said magnetic core; a unit of multiple conductive windings, wherein no more than one unit of multiple conductive windings is wound on said magnetic core.

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Regarding claims 23, 41 & 55 the closest references are "Ground Fault Detection and Protection Circuit" Bereskin US Patent 4159499 issued Jun. 26 1979 & "I/O Relay Interface Module" Taniguchi et al. US Patent 5000692 issued March 19 1991.

For the reasons on Bereskin see above.

Taniguchi et al. discloses an interface module for mounting relays to be connected with a central controller and individual external I/O devices.

Taniguchi et al. does not disclose an interrupter adapter module that can be mounted between an existing electric circuit module that may include relays or circuit breakers and a socket to add line-to-line and line-to-ground fault protection to existing electrical wiring systems.

As a result for claims 8, 23, 24, 33, 41, 43 & 55 the allowability resides, at least in part, in the above-described limitations, in combination with the other elements of each of the claims, which has not been disclosed in or rendered obvious by the Prior Art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance".

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Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Luis E. Román whose telephone number is (571) 272 – 5527. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon – Fri from 7:15 AM to 3:45 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Sircus can be reached on (571) 272-2800 x 36. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LR/081406

Luis E. Román
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2836



ROBERT L. DEBERADNIS
PRIMARY EXAMINER